

AMAA news



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Students of Shamlian-Tatikian Kindergarten



AMAA Visits Lebanon
Nine Hours in Istanbul
Easter Celebrations in Armenia
Avedisian School of Yerevan, Armenia

Called to Labor You and I

Levon Filian

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:35-38



It was true in His days on earth, it is also true today. The harvest is plenty and the laborers are few!

We witnessed this during our visits to Armenia, Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. We saw the need for spiritual leadership and we saw the need for financial assistance. We cannot and should not be blind and turn a deaf ear to the needs and the cry of our brothers and sisters in these countries.

We saw unemployment, poverty, children without fathers, wives without husbands, men without work. Poverty abounds in rural towns and villages in Armenia. They number in the many hundreds.

We saw illegal immigrants in Turkey; Armenians who have fled from poverty in Armenia and have found refuge in Turkey; parents working illegally, doing hard labor for minimum wage. Yet, they find the means to send their children to school in the basement of Gedik Pasha Church, an Armenian Evangelical Church in Istanbul.

Here, in the basement of a church with no natural lighting, the children learn to read and write in Armenian, learn about their rich Armenian heritage and learn about the Light, Jesus Christ. Words cannot describe the love these children demonstrate for God, their parents and their heritage.

We saw the unemployment and poverty in the war-torn countries of Syria and Lebanon. We see our Armenian children leave Armenian schools to attend government schools. In doing so, they are deprived from a Christ centered Armenian education.

Yes! The harvest is great and the laborers are few! Here is what we learn from the Bible!

1. Pray therefore to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers. Matthew 9:37-38
2. Help financially and be a Barnabas. Acts 4:32-37
When believers saw the need to help, they took action and helped financially.
3. Find workers – missionaries to help. Acts 6:2-3
When believers saw the need, they took action and found workers to help them.
4. Bless the worker. Acts 6:6
After finding the workers, they took action and blessed them.
5. God's blessings. Acts 6:7
If we follow these steps, God will bless our mission!

We are all challenged to be part of this mission! Please pray and participate in our mission. □

L to R: Armen Beylerian, AMAA Field & Operations Director; Sona Eozpenbe, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beyoglu, Turkey; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, and Ohannes Torkomoglu, Chairman of the Beyoglu Church Council.

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Beirut, April 2012

AMAA Visits Beirut, Anjar and Haigazian University

Armen Beylerian

Armenian Evangelical Community in Lebanon, April 2012

April 23, 2012, 8:30 pm, the flight from Istanbul arrives in Beirut. Levon Filian and I exit the plane to be greeted by Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian who takes us to the Union's headquarters. We settle in for the week's activities.

April 24 in Beirut is a major day of commemoration for Armenians. Most people are able to get a day off work and Armenian-owned businesses are closed. This day begins with a church service at Nor Marash Church where Armenian Evangelicals gather for a service of thanks and praise to God. Levon delivered the sermon with an April 24 Genocide message combined with a spiritual message from God's word.

Following the service everyone prepared for the demonstration march to the Turkish Embassy. We had a quick drive over to Antelias for the start of the march immediately following the speech by the Vehapar of Antelias.

The three kilometer march was pleasant at first but as the road became steeper and the weather warmer, it was more of a struggle to walk all the way to our destination. The 25,000 marchers were very well behaved all the way up and down the hill.

Armenian Evangelical Schools in Beirut

Wednesday, April 25 was devoted to visiting our five schools in the Beirut area. Phyllis Dohanian, Grace Kurkjian and I were driven around to all the schools by Rev. Hrayr Cholakian. We started with the **Armenian Evangelical College** which is situated between the First Armenian Evangelical Church and Haigazian University. The school principal, Dr. Zaven Messerlian, has been at this position for 43 years. He is a vibrant man who relishes recalling his former students and their accomplishments. This year, the

student population is 133, which is somewhat higher than the average for the last 10 years.

The next school we visited was **Central High School** in Ashrafieh where Maral Deyirmenjian is principal with 292 students. While in Beirut we enjoyed the 90th anniversary banquet for the school. It was attended by many alumni and visitors from faraway. Staying in Ashrafieh we next visited the **Gertmenian School** where the principal, Sahag Dedeyan, showed us around the school that serves 98 students. The student population has been declining for the past 10 years.

The last two schools that we visited in Beirut were the **Shamlan-Tatikian School** in Bourj Hammoud and the **Torossian School** in Amanos. Shamlan-Tatikian currently has 318 students and has been slowly growing over the past 10 years. The new principal is Vartouhy Balekjian. The Torossian School in Amanos is run by Principal Seta Karagoezian who oversees 211 students. Each school faces its own challenges but their faculties are



Nor Marash Church before the April 24 service

all dedicated educators and servants of the Lord.

Levon Filian and I took a journey to the village of Anjar. Anjar is mid-way between Beirut and Damascus, Syria, on the Lebanese side of the border. This town was established to house the refugees from Musa Dag in 1939. The population is entirely Armenian. The **Armenian Evangelical Secondary School** in Anjar serves 243 students. The boarding school houses, feeds and nurtures nearly 100 students from ages 8 to 17. Rev. Raffi Messerlian is both the principal and "badveli." This school has been a great blessing to many from Anjar and from other faraway places. There are alumni from this school in nearly every Armenian Evangelical Church around the world.

The Swiss-German Hilfsbund Mission has been working in Anjar since 1948. For the past 28 years, Gottfried and Analise Spangenberg have been working and supporting the school tirelessly. We are so grateful for their work and financial support of the Anjar AES School.

These six schools have nearly 1,300 students; most of them come from an Armenian Apostolic background. They receive a very good education through the official Government curriculum in addition to Armenian and Christian studies in a caring and nurturing environment. In recent years the government has retroactively required schools to increase teacher salaries. While



Pre-march gathering in Antelias

this would be a good thing for the teachers, the school budgets cannot absorb these retroactive requirements. The great majority of the parents cannot afford increases in tuition. This leaves the schools in a very precarious position. The benefit these schools provide to the Armenian community in Lebanon and elsewhere should not be

underestimated. Alumni from these schools have become great leaders in the Armenian community worldwide and comprise part of the core of the strong Armenian community in the Middle East. The schools are reaching out to the alumni around the world for support with some success. However, the deep financial hole that has been created by the government actions must be addressed immediately. Support for the schools' mission of the AMAA must be a high priority.

Following the school visits in Beirut, the leadership of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) held a meeting at the Union offices. Reports were given regarding the status of schools in Beirut, the situation in Syria and other matters. The needs are great for prayers and financial support for our people in Lebanon and Syria.

Another major institution supported by the AMAA in Lebanon is Haigazian University. This great university, based on Armenian



The unveiling of a plaque in honor of the late Mrs. Arminé Darakjian, former Registrar of Haigazian University. L to R: Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Dr. Ani Darakjian, and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University.

Evangelical principles, is home to over 900 students from various backgrounds. It is a place of higher learning, peaceful dialogue and an example of how people of differing backgrounds can coexist and solve difficult issues of our time. The university is under the very capable leadership of Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian.

The Haigazian University Board of Trustees met for two days to conduct the business of the



L to R: Armen Beylerian, AMAA Field & Operations Director; Rev. Raffi Messerlian, Pastor of the Anjar Church; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director and Gottfried and Analise Spangenberg (Hilfsbund missionaries in Anjar).



The congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Anjar, Lebanon

university. The meeting was concluded on the second day at Camp KCHAG where some of the camp facilities are being renovated following the damage caused by recent military activity in the area. There are many more buildings and infrastructure in need of repair. These repairs are awaiting donations from interested parties who want to see KCHAG back to its former condition where young people go to have wonderful fellowship experiences while learning about Christ.

At Haigazian University, Dr. Ani Darakjian, with her husband Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, unveiled a plaque in honor of her late mother Arminé Darakjian, who for many years had served the University (then College) as its very capable Registrar.

This visit was essentially my first one to Lebanon and made a great impression on me. The greatest takeaway for me was the six schools that are run by our Armenian Evangelical community. The staff and administration at these schools work tirelessly and sometimes with reduced or

no pay because they believe in the mission to teach and shape young minds and souls to be good contributors in our communities. These schools are under great pressure due to changing government regulations and especially financially where they sometimes have trouble meeting their obligations. These six schools have historically produced some of the most accomplished Armenian young men and women in our communities worldwide.

I thank God for all His blessings on our communities, our leaders and teachers in the Middle East. They are working in very difficult conditions and only by the grace of our Lord are they able to continue. It is obvious that they need help. I want to think that it is obvious

to the rest of us that we must provide help. Please take a look at the faces of the children on the cover of this issue of AMAA News and ask yourself what can I do to help them. □



KCHAG Chapel renovation



Istanbul, Turkey

NINE HOURS IN ISTANBUL

Armen Beylerian

Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and I spent nine hours in Istanbul on April 23 on our way from Yerevan to Beirut.

In Istanbul, we met with Rev. Krikor Agabaloglu, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church, at his home. We enjoyed breakfast with Rev. Agabaloglu and his wife, Maria, along with Rakel Dink, widow of Hrant Dink, Emili Agabaloglu, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Agabaloglu, Jem, the assistant Pastor, and Preacher Sona Eozpenbe, from the Armenian Evangelical Church. Following prayers, we spoke about family, places and memories. There is nothing like the closeness one feels with fellow believers even on the first meeting.

Our plan for the day was to visit the two seminal churches for the Armenian Evangelical movement — Beyoglu 1846 and

Gedik Pasha 1850 — and to visit the AGOS news agency where Hrant Dink worked. At AGOS there's a plaque, in Turkish and Armenian, on the sidewalk where Hrant Dink was assassinated. The office is a hive of activity with several young people working on their projects. The editor-in-chief is Robert Koptas (Mourad Shirvanian), son-in-law of Hrant and Rakel Dink. He is keeping the news agency moving along the path that Hrant would have wanted — finding the truth and publishing it. The advocate is for Armenians, Kurds and Alawites. We had an invigorating conversation.

Our next stop was the Beyoglu Church, which was founded in 1846. The church is



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey



The Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasha, Istanbul, Turkey

located on a narrow hilly street where many Armenians used to live. The plaque outside the church says that this is the first Armenian Evangelical Church in the world. It is a very important place for Armenians, as this is where the resurgence of our faith began. The Pastor is Sona Eozpenbe who has a

bright outlook and passion for preaching the gospel. The Union has given her a license for preaching, performing services and administering communion. We were joined by Ohannes Torkumoglu, one of the church elders. We recounted some history, sang a hymn in Armenian and recognized what a precious place this is for all Armenians.

We then proceeded to the Gedik Pasha Church, which was founded in 1850. This church provides the spiritual needs for Istanbul residents in Turkish and in Persian (Farsi). Rev. Agabaloglu took us to visit the school that the church built beneath its parking lot. The school has 84 students in grades kindergarten through five, and is for immigrants from Armenia who have no other recourse to educate their children. All teachers are Armenians from Armenia and the curriculum is identical to schools in Armenia where Eastern



Armenian, Russian and English are taught. The funding for this school comes from a Catholic organization.

The nine hour visit to Istanbul was short but full of excitement, fellowship, education, praise for God's work and new friendships. Meeting and spending time with Rakel Dink, Rev. Krikor and his wife Maria, Assistant Pastor Jem and Preacher Sona was amazing. I was truly humbled to be among the giants of our Armenian Evangelical community and I thank God for the opportunity to be part of this visit. □

Summer Reading

Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian's Latest Book
The Love Relationships & Heartfelt Words

*Reviewed by Lucine Kasbarian

The Love Relationships & Heartfelt Words (Armenian Heritage Committee, 2012) presents readers with a unique view into the spiritual and practical values of its prolific author, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian. Rev. Tootikian is the *Minister Emeritus* of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, MI, and the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

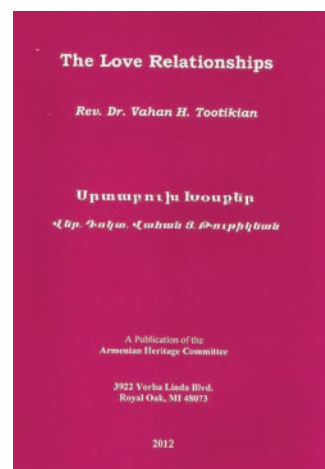
In this new, 158-page bilingual work, Rev. Tootikian applies his scholarship and vast experience as a clergyman to the fields of theology, human relationships, Armenian history and Armenian traditions to discuss Christian and Armenian ethics in daily life.

This hardcover volume is broken up into two sections. *The Love Relationships* contains more than 30 concise articles in English and is split into three parts: *Views on Biblical and Other Issues*, *Armenian Issues*, and *Observances*. The Armenian language section, *Srdapokh Khosker (Heartfelt Words)*, consists of 12 homilies, essays and meditations dealing with religious, cultural and societal issues affecting Armenians.

Rev. Tootikian chose highly relevant subjects for this, his 34th book. His conversational style and straightforward approach will easily engage and uplift readers. The global Armenian community greatly benefits when someone with Rev. Tootikian's abilities provides the opportunity for conscientious people to mull over their lives and their place in the world. As is the case with each of Rev. Tootikian's other books, *The Love Relationships* will supplement Sunday sermons, family discussions and personal contemplations, and offer readers food for thought and action.

The Love Relationships & Heartfelt Words is available for \$25 (with \$2.50 per book added for shipping and handling) through the Armenian Heritage Committee, 3922 Yorba Linda Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48073.

*Lucine Kasbarian is an Armenian author of many books, a journalist and activist.



Easter Celebrations in Armenia and Karabagh

AMAA-Armenia and the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) continue to organize Easter activities throughout Armenia and Karabagh. This year, the Easter celebrations were held in 46 towns and villages with 50 activities. Over 5,700 children and teenagers and their families participated in these programs. Most of the children were from Sunday schools, sponsorship programs and from arts & crafts and tutorial groups.

The Christian educators, who are mostly volunteers, made a great effort and did their best preparing the Easter activities. The theme of the activities, “The Power of Resurrection in Christ”, was the same in all AMAA and ECA centers, yet each activity was different with its interesting, colorful and joyful programs and decorations. In many places Easter activities included decorated eggs and other Easter goodies as well as Christian Educators explaining the meaning of Easter.

In towns and villages the Easter message was proclaimed in dramas, songs and games and in various forms of art which inspired and educated the audience. The participants worshipped God with songs and prayers.

Easter in Gyumri, Artik and Maralik

In Gyumri, Artik and Maralik the Easter activities were held on April 8. After singing Easter songs and reading Bible passages about Christ’s resurrection, the Christian Education team presented “the Poppy and the Narcissus”, a play about flowers growing together in the neighborhood. The narcissus was proud of her appearance and didn’t like the poppy much. One day they saw people walking, and they wondered how these flowers walk on their two stalks. The poppy explained to the narcissus that these are people. Soon winter came and the flowers withered and died. But in the spring they rose again. In short, this explained that people are the masterpiece of the Creation, and God has planned to save His creation and after death there is new life in Jesus Christ. After the drama and prayers, refreshments were served to all participants.

Yerevan

In Yerevan, on April 19 and 20, on the occasion of Easter and the Commemoration of the



Easter celebrations in Ijevan, Armenia

Armenian Genocide, the “Hayasa” theatrical group of the ECA and AMAA presented the “Revival” drama directed by Nouné Abrahamyan. The drama was based on Richard Kalinoski’s “Beast on The Moon” which is about a young couple who survived the Armenian Genocide, yet they had sorrow in their hearts. The young family was trying to live in God’s word, but sometimes life’s difficulties bothered them. However, at the end they understood that in order to change their lives they should leave their sorrows behind, and only by doing so, can they have a good future. All the participants returned to their homes with this message holding the Resurrected Christ in their hearts.



Levon Filian addresses the audience after the presentation of the "Revival" drama by Hayasa Theatrical Group of Evangelical Church of Armenia.

These activities proclaimed the Easter message of divine love, hope and eternal life in the risen Jesus Christ to children. They were presented in ways that were understood by the young people and touched and changed the hearts of thousands who heard it, bringing hope to the Armenian nation that is trying to resuscitate from many long years of pain and suffering. □



Easter celebrations in Bureghavan, Armenia



Easter celebrations in Dilijan, Armenia



Easter celebrations in Vardenis, Armenia



AMAA Executive Director & Field Director Visit Armenia

In April, AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian with the newly appointed AMAA Field & Operations Director Armen Beylerian were in Armenia. During their visit they met with some of the leaders and the staff of the AMAA-Armenia offices and discussed the work of the Association in Armenia.

Pictured is the staff of the AMAA-Armenia Headquarters in Yerevan.

Bottom row, L to R: Lusine Azaryan, Susanna Harutyunyan, Shushanik Minasyan, Malvine Bekeryan, Gayane Gabrielyan, Lusine Ohanyan. Second row, L to R: Harout Nercessian, Eliz Baghtazaryan, Egisabet Khachatryan, Anahit Fodulyan. Third row, L to R: Ashot Petrosyan, Christina Simonyan, Gayane Harutyunyan, Zemfira Smoyan, Albert Paytyan. Fourth row, L to R: Gohar Margaryan, Sona Karapetyan, Emilia Ohanyan, Armen Stepanyan, Vahagn Keshishyan, Manvel Asatryan. Fifth row, L to R: Christine Karapetyan, Levon Filian, Hakob Hovhannissyan, Azat Srapionyan.



Joyce Philibosian Stein Awarded Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Joyce Philibosian Stein, an ex-officio member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Board of Directors, Co-Chair of the AMAA National Orphan and Child Care Committee, Trustee of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation and ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees for Haigazian University, was honored on May 12 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), sponsors of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was presented to Mrs. Stein on Ellis Island, where 12 million immigrants entered the United States from 1892 to 1954.

Each year since 1986, NECO has honored the nation's diverse past by sponsoring the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. The Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. The Medals are presented in a dramatic ceremony on Ellis Island, to American citizens from across the country for their outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world.

Past Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients include six Presidents of the United States, Nobel Prize winners, athletes, entertainers, and leaders of industry, education, the arts, government, media and others whose work has made a lasting impact on humanity. They are awarded to outstanding American citizens, from all walks of life, who have distinguished themselves through their significant contributions to this country. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor ranks among the nation's most prestigious awards. The United States Senate and House of Representatives have officially recognized the Medals of Honor, and each year the recipients are listed in the

Congressional Record. To date, over 1,800 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Mrs. Stein is the daughter of the late Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte and Stephen Philibosian, a philanthropist, entrepreneur and a co-founder of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. Having both crossed the Ellis Island threshold, they

would have been amazed to know their daughter was awarded with such a medal of honor. They were true Americans who in that spirit encouraged the very American pursuits of giving of oneself.

Mrs. Stein was born in New York City and attended Colby/Sawyer College, Southern Methodist University and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds an honorary degree from Haigazian University (LLD). She lived in St. Andrew's Scotland while her husband, Joe, attended St. Mary's College. She now resides with her husband in Indian Wells, CA. In keeping with her father's legacy, Mrs. Stein has wholeheartedly supported the AMAA and Haigazian University in leadership positions. Among her many other contributions to philanthropic causes, she served as a volunteer and major fundraiser for the Children's Hospital in

Continued on the following page...



Joyce Philibosian Stein



L to R: Matthew Landes, Stephanie Landes, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Joe Stein, Chrissy Landes, and Michael Landes



L to R: Esther Momjian, Liliana Filian, Levon Filian, Nana Nazarian, Joyce Philibosian Stein, Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Joe Stein, and seated Albert Momjian, Esq.

AMAA Participates In Armenian Festival

The Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Washington, D.C. invited the AMAA to support the 20th Annual Armenian Festival in Alexandria, VA on June 2 and to participate in its worship service on June 3. Representing the AMAA were Armen Beylerian, Field & Operations Director, and Tigran Melkonyan, Sponsorship Supervisor.

Each year, the Armenian community of Alexandria organizes a festival and invites Armenian organizations to participate. Among the participants were the AMAA, ANCA, Armenian Assembly, AGBU Young Professionals, and Knights of Vartan. The festive occasion was filled with traditional Armenian songs, dances, storytelling, arts and crafts, and food.

The AMAA participated in the event with a display of Bibles, Armenian books, literature, Armenian puzzles, games, Armenian blocks and souvenirs. Information on the Child Sponsorship and Adopt-a-Granny Programs was also provided.

On Sunday, the worship service was held at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. Following the service, Armen gave a presentation on his recent trip to Armenia, Istanbul and Lebanon and Dr. Nairy Ohanian of the Barnabas International Organization addressed the congregation on her work with missionaries.



“The fellowship time was wonderful with great conversation and delicious food,” said Armen. “Many thanks to Alyce Tamzarian and Harry Balukjian for organizing this successful weekend.” □



Armenians Honored by NECO and Receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor

This year, along with Joyce Philibosian Stein, eight other Armenians were honored by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) and received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 12.

They include: Nancy Arabian, Co-Owner of ARMS Providers, Inc.; Helene Irma Der Stepanian, Economic Consultant, Cultural Activist & NECO Board Member; Nishan Goudsouzian, MD, Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School; Kevork Karajerjian, AIA, Chief Architect & CFO, Karabuild Development, Inc.; Dalida Keuroghlian, CEO, MK Designers, Inc.; Papken Megerian, CEO, Advanced MRI Center, LLC; Ohannes Nercessian, MD, Associate Clinical Professor Orthopedic Surgery, College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University; and Alice Petrossian, President, Association of California School Administrators.

The Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the AMAA congratulate these prominent Armenian leaders for their service and achievements.

Joyce Stein Honored... Continued from the previous page

Philadelphia and as Chair of the “Daisy Day” Fund, when President Dwight Eisenhower was the Honorary Chairman. She has also served as a member of the Support Committee of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Her husband, Joe, represents AMAA in the United Armenian Fund and is involved in numerous other Armenian organizations and projects. Her daughter, Stephanie Landes, is a current member of the AMAA Board of Directors and her daughter, Tina Segel, is

a member of Haigazian University Board of Directors. She also actively serves on the LA Child and Orphan Committee and has sponsored the annual Luncheon and Fashion Show. Mrs. Stein is actively involved in the lives of her six grandchildren.

“The AMAA congratulates Joyce on this very prestigious award,” said Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. “Joyce is a true leader who puts her heart and soul into each and every project to make the world a little better than how she found it.” □

Executive Director Visits Toronto and Cambridge

On May 26 and 27 Armenian Missionary Association of America Executive Director Levon Filian visited the churches, pastors, friends and AMAA sponsors in Toronto, Cambridge, Kitchener and St. Catherine, Canada.

On Saturday, he met with the AMAC Executive Board members to discuss the various missions projects they support in cooperation with the AMAA. We thank the AMAC Executive Director, Mihran Jizmejian, for his many years of leadership. We also thank Ghevont Nalbandian, AMAC President, for his leadership.

On Saturday evening, the Armenian Athletic General Association - HMEM of Canada held its 35th Anniversary. Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian of Cambridge, most of his church parishioners, along with Levon and Liliana Filian attended this gala event. It was great to see the involvement of our parishioners in Armenian Community events.

On Sunday, during church service, Mr. Filian gave the English message and Pastor Roupen Zeitlian gave the Armenian message. After the worship service, the church held its mission luncheon program. The church supports many mission activities among which are the AMAA projects.

We thank the Toronto church mission committee for its continued support, prayer and partnership in our mission activities.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the mission fundraising event. Special thanks to Rev. Sam Albarian and his wife, Tamar. ☐



L to R: Levon and Liliana Filian, Juliet and Hagop Janbazian, Father Gomidas Panossian, Harout and Marlen Garboushian, Connie and Mike Titizian, and Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian.



Some of the members of AMAC. L to R: Sarkis Marandjian, AMAC Vice President; David Torunian, Recording Secretary; Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian, Board Member; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director; Rev. Sam Albarian, Minister; Bob Adourian Esq., AMAC Solicitor, and Mihran Jizmejian, AMAC Executive Director.



The congregation of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Canada

AMAA SUNDAY IN HAVERTOWN, PA

Armen Beylerian, AMAA Field & Operations Director, visited the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA to celebrate AMAA Sunday on May 6. He gave a presentation about his recent trip to Armenia, Beirut, Lebanon, Istanbul and Anjar. Armen was able to reconnect with Rev. Nishan Bakalian and his wife, Maria, and to meet new friends who were gracious and welcoming. He was pleased to see so many young people learning to read Armenian and surprised at the number of requests for Armenian Bibles, which he provided. □



Armenian Churches of Worcester County, MASS. Dinner Dance Benefits AMAA's Milk Fund

The Armenian Churches of Worcester County, MA held their first Benefit Dinner Dance April 28 at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center. This was a joint effort by members from all four Armenian churches of Worcester County, which resulted in a very successful evening. The Armenian community truly embraced and welcomed the concept of this event, as demonstrated by the approximately 300 people in attendance.

This was a fantastic opportunity to bring everyone together for fun and fellowship, as well as to help our brothers and

sisters in Armenia. The dance netted \$8,900 and each of the three Armenian charities chosen as the beneficiaries this year — Armenian Children's Milk Fund, Habitat for Humanity-Armenia, and Voice of the Armenian Church — received an equal share of \$2,967.

Since the community showed such a great response to this event, another benefit dance is being planned for next year. The Armenian Churches of Worcester County thank all who supported this worthy cause! □



Updates

Syrian Relief

Thanks to the very generous support of our members, we have been able to provide much needed food and medical supplies to our people in Syria. The continued violence throughout Syria is causing a humanitarian emergency which has greatly affected our Armenian families.

Adopt-a-Granny

Our Adopt-a-Granny program has also been successful. The grannies receive food, clothing, personal hygiene and health items, fellowship gatherings at AMAA centers and home visitations from AMAA social workers. There are still many grannies and a few grandfathers who need to be adopted. A donation of \$250 will help support a granny (or grandfather) in Armenia for one year.

It's not too late. If you would like to support either of these important programs, please send your tax deductible gift, earmarked for Syrian Relief or Adopt-a-Granny, to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. You may also visit the AMAA website at amaa@amaa.org or call 201.265.2607.



Edward Avedisian Offers Hope to Poorest Children of Armenia

The following article written by Alin K. Gregorian, Armenian Mirror-Spectator Staff, was featured in the Armenian Mirror-Spectator Weekly on Saturday, March 24, 2012. It is printed with the permission of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

LEXINGTON, Mass. — For Edward Avedisian, education is the key to the future of Armenia and that is why he is helping children there. Avedisian, who retired eight years ago as a clarinetist with the Boston Pops after 35 years and spent 43 seasons with the Boston Ballet Orchestra, is focusing on the education of the poorest children in Armenia. He founded the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian K-12 School in the Malatia-Sepastia portion of Yerevan, a neighborhood so poor that it is commonly known as “Bangladesh.”

Avedisian recalled his decision to delve into the world of music as a boy. “The credit — or blame — goes to Aram Chobanian who was our next-door neighbor,” he recalled in a recent interview. He was a few years older than Avedisian and a contemporary of his older brother. “Aram played the clarinet. He was like the pace car. My older brother followed him” and then gave it up, only for the younger Avedisian to pick it up.

Avedisian recalled working with many Pops conductors, including the late Arthur Fiedler, John Williams and Keith Lockhart, feeling especially proud to do so on the traditional Armenian Night at Pops every June. He said he felt the most kinship with Fiedler.

“I had a wonderful career,” he recalled, singling out his delight in performing with the late soprano, Dame Joan Sutherland, and the late tenor, Luciano Pavarotti.

In addition to performing, he has taught at Boston University and Endicott College.

After leaving the world of music, Avedisian took his savings and his pension and decided to invest them. He read up on the market and invested carefully.

“I never went to formal business school, and don’t have an MBA,” he said. The lack of a business degree did not hamper his investment skills. “I did fairly well. I’m not complaining,” he said.

Avedisian turned to Armenia when he started looking for a project as a tribute

to his mother. “My mother celebrated her 90th birthday in 1994. It was the occasion for a party. She said, ‘I don’t need a coat or a hat or a bag,’ the usual. But we had to do something. We were having more than 100 people, people she hadn’t seen for 40-50 years.”

Instead of a hat, coat or bag, he and his then fiancée (and now wife) Pamela decided on supporting a school in Armenia. The money they raised at the party became the seed money for the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School, which he is supporting through the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). He recalled that his associates, who were scouting a school for him to support, came back to him and said the only one they could find was in the poorest section of Yerevan, Malatia-Sepastia. “I said that’s exactly what we want,” Avedisian said.

He recalled that his mother had grown up in a German missionary orphanage in Kharpert. She had been found as a young girl and had been living and studying there. As if a miracle, one day her mother, almost beaten to death, came to the door of orphanage and was rescued. (The resident doctor there, incidentally, was the father of the late Genocide documentarian, Dr. J. Michael Hagopian.) He was able to save Avedisian’s grandmother, and thus, his mother was brought up in the Protestant tradition and eventually when she arrived in the US, supported the work of the AMAA.

The pre-school/kindergarten in Yerevan was in a building so decrepit that the city had closed it down. Avedisian,

through the AMAA leased the building for 99 years. Work started on the building to make it safer, as well as bigger. The first year that Avedisian started at the school, in 1999, the school had 75 students.

“Things in Armenia take more time,” he said. “Once everything was settled, we knew where we were going to be. There was no ‘cement’ in the cement. Refurbishment was out of the realm of possibility.”

Still, he and his team worked with this unworkable building, adding a grade every year since 1999. “We’ve got all the way to ninth grade now,” he noted, with 300 students.

Now, the Avedisian School is not just functioning; it is one of the top schools in the country. “The Education Ministry [officials] came by to check the school



Students in class at the Avedisian School in Yerevan

out. They said this is the best-run school in Armenia and gave us a gold medal.” The award, he said, is given every five years to a deserving school.

In fact, students from the school have won national prizes in French and Russian for several years. “They came back with the first place medal for two years and the French team won first place this year. The math and science levels are also very, very high.”

“The principal, Melania Geghamyan, is unbelievable,” Avedisian said.

Now the school is growing out of the building and Avedisian is building a new school about a half-mile away to house students from pre-school to 12th grade. "The school is free for the kids and we accept the poorest of kids. We investigate to make sure that they are deserving."

The new building is going to be LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environment Development] Certified and built up to every code there. "You're going to get the safest building in Armenia against earthquakes," he said, and it will use solar and wind energy systems. In addition, smart choices, such as making many of the classrooms face the southwest and thus warmer, all will save money. In addition, land will be dedicated to farming so that the school can grow its own crops.

Avedisian wants to help reach the goal of \$10 million for the school, which will include not only the construction of the state-of-the-art building, but also an endowment.

The drawings are complete and the groundbreaking will take place in June and the building is expected to be complete by 2014.

With the blessing of Rakel Dink, the widow of slain journalist Hrant Dink, the school will have a fully digitized library and research center dedicated to him.

About \$5 million remains of the goal.

Much of the credit for the stellar results of the school, in addition to Geghamyan,

or not. The teachers, he said, are paid so poorly, that they view selling grades as the only way to supplement their incomes. "We pay them a little more. The teacher needs to get the child up to speed with no [extra] money," he said.

With the students from such impoverished backgrounds, the school tries to give them more than an education. For example, dental care in Armenia, Avedisian said, is among the worst in the world, with parents not able to spend money on toothbrushes or toothpaste, and frankly often unaware of oral hygiene themselves. Students at the Avedisian School get toothbrushes and are taught how to brush their teeth with salt if they don't have toothpaste.

Avedisian also is a trustee of the American University of Armenia (AUA), with close ties to its president, Dr. Bruce Boghosian. In fact, he was the lead sponsor of the new Paramaz Avedisian Building on the AUA campus, and was on the search committee for the AUA president position.

Avedisian hopes that once the Avedisian School reaches the 12th grade, the AUA will offer an undergraduate program, as Boghosian hopes, so that children will be able to receive the best possible schooling from pre-school through graduate school, "all without paying a nickel." "He is doing a wonderful job," he said of Boghosian. "Bruce has gone out full blast. This is not the same

place it was two years ago."

In addition to the AUA, Avedisian said that the school in Armenia has "synergy" with other organizations such as the



Students of the K&S Avedisian Grade School on the steps of the American University of Armenia Baghramian Building proclaiming their future and in attendance for the AUA 2004 graduation exercises.

Armenia Tree Project and the Armenian Eyecare Project (AECF). He recalled the story of one little girl at the school who was born cross-eyed. The child's family is impoverished, with the father having left for Russia, ostensibly for work, but having never sent money. The girl, her mother, brother and grandmother all lived on the miniscule pension of the grandmother. The family clearly had no money to deal with this easily fixable yet expensive condition. The principal approached Avedisian for help and he in turn asked the AECF people for help, which they offered readily. The girl, who had an operation in June, has perfectly aligned eyes and is one the top students in her class. He praised Dr. Roger Ohanesian, the founder of AECF, saying "he does great work. He is a go-to guy."

He offered words of hope for the future of Armenia. "Our people are our best export," he said, unfortunately, noting that they have no choice but to leave if they have no work. He invited everyone to come to Armenia, see what each can do and help. "There are no reasons and no excuses" for Armenia not to move ahead.

"We want to give the teachers and the students a chance. Pay them a living wage and for the kids, this is their ticket out," he said. "Armenian kids have got the genes for learning. There is no limit to what can happen there."

Anyone interested in making donations to the school can send a check to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or visit <http://www.amaa.org/together/avedisianschool.html>. □



Rendering of the New AMAA Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian Junior and Senior Schools. Groundbreaking and construction begins in June 2012 with the opening slated for September 2014.

goes to the teachers, he said. He praised their attitude and their dedication. Often in Armenia, students need to pay teachers to get high marks, whether they have earned them

ARMENIAN MARTYRS' CHURCH HOSTS BENEFIT CONCERT FOR AVEDISIAN SCHOOL

Eileen Chopourian Stephey

The Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA, hosted a benefit concert on June 2 which featured the Grace Kelly Quintet. The concert raised money and awareness for the Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia. The highly successful evening, co-chaired by Eileen Stephey and Tom Momjian, was supported by the Armenian and local communities with over 200 attendees filling the sanctuary. Delicious, light refreshments were provided before the concert.

Ms. Kelly's quintet included the hymns "Blessed Assurance", "Amazing Grace" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer" from her CD "Grace", in their performance. Saxophonist Grace Kelly also sang some of her own compositions. The outstanding musicians, which included Jason Palmer on trumpet, Evan Gregor on bass, Pete McCann on guitar and Jordan Perlson on drums, quickly established a warm rapport with the audience and received a standing ovation following their final number. Grace and her family are very supportive of the Avedisian School building project and performed at a fundraising



concert in Lexington, MA in January for the Avedisian School. For more information about Grace, go to www.gracekellymusic.com.

Pamela and Ed Avedisian attended the concert. Ed spoke briefly about the award winning Avedisian School and invited the audience to participate in this great project

with their financial support. The groundbreaking for the new school will take place this June and will employ state of the art energy efficient technology in its construction. For more information about the Avedisian School Building Project and how you can help, go to the AMAA website at www.amaa.org. □



Avedisian School Principal Receives Award

Melania Geghamyan, Principal of the Avedisian School in Armenia, was recently honored by The Second Congress of the Russian Language Teachers' Association in Secondary Education Institutes at their Congress, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science in the Russian Federation, Russian language teachers and specialists.

The Ambassador of Russian Federation in Armenia, V. Kovalenko, honored Melania, who is also the Director of "The Hay Krtutyun" Educational Foundation, for her long-term input in the sphere of development of the Russian language and in strengthening the Armenian-Russian friendship.



ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS 90TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER IN LEBANON

Avo Chakmakian, CHS English Teacher

Azurea Hall at Le Royal Hotel was the venue of the 90th anniversary celebration of the Armenian Evangelical High School (CHS) of Ashrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon. On April 27, the extended CHS family came together in this grandiose restaurant. It was a reunion where nostalgic friends and guests, teachers and students fathomed the nuances of voices and gestures that simply portrayed deep commitment and love.

Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, underlined the assertive nature of the founders of this prestigious school, a linchpin of the Lebanese educational reality. Rev. Sghomon Kilaghbian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh, blessed all for the ascent of Armenian schools. Maral Deyirmenjian, CHS Principal, referred to the history and success story emphasizing the role of teachers and the Union of Graduates in the United States. She also honored AMAA Directors and Kevork Arabian, patron of the celebration, with plaques.

Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, Dr. Joseph Zeronian, President of

the AMAA Board of Directors, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, former President of the AMAA Board of Directors, Armen Beylerian, Field & Operations Director, Phyllis Dohanian, Development & Marketing Director, and several AMAA Board members were in attendance.

Mr. Arabian restated that only in an Armenian school would an Armenian student receive the education conducive to success as a real Armenian: the Armenian spirit and creative pedagogical methods imbued by Christian Faith.

The undertaking was a success due to the aegis of the Evangelical Church, the discretion and deftness of the administration, and the joint efforts of the assiduous



Cutting the 90th Anniversary Cake is L to R: Rev. Sghomon Kilaghbian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh; Maral Deyirmenjian, Principal of Central High School; Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, and Kevork Arabian, Patron of the 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Educational Board, the Alumni, and the Parents' Auxiliary.

While beautiful Armenian music, songs and dances inspired everyone, satisfaction was apparent on all faces because the experience would last a decade, to be crowned by the Centennial in 2022. □



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian Joins AMAA in Armenia



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Senior Pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno, CA for the past nine years and Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), will be joining the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) on July 1, 2012. He will serve as Minister to Ministers and Field Director (Armenia).

Rev. Melkonian was born in Aleppo, Syria and received his education at the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical School and the Karen Jeppe Jemaran High School in Aleppo. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Armenian literature from Haigazian University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. Following his graduation from the seminary, the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East called Rev. Melkonian to serve as the director of the Armenian Evangelical youth in Syria and Lebanon. He then served as Christian educator of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Damascus,

Homs, Kessab and Aleppo, preacher at the Armenian Evangelical Martyrs' Church and the Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church in Aleppo and pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal. Rev. Melkonian also served for nine years as Associate Pastor in the UACC in Hollywood, CA.

While in Canada, Rev. Melkonian started the Tebi Louys (Toward Light) television ministry and chaired the task force for the AEUNA's 12th Biennial General Assembly. He also served as vice president of The Armenian Missionary Association of Canada.

Rev. Melkonian has also served as organizer and speaker for many youth, couples and church conferences and camps in Syria, Lebanon, Canada, Armenia, California and Australia.

He will preside at the Union's 21st Biennial General Assembly in Montreal from June 28 to July 1. Rev. Melkonian, who is married to Hourri Aposhian Melkonian, the father of three and grandfather of one, is also the current president of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.



Ապրիլի 24-ին Եդեսի վերապրումի 97-ամեակին առիթով, կազմակերպութեամբ Լիբանանի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու Հովուական Ժողովին, Միացեալ Պաշտամունք տեղի ունեցաւ 24 Ապրիլ 2012-ին, կ.ա. ժամը 10:00-ին, Նոր Մարաշի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին մէջ:

Օրուան գլխաւոր պատգամաբերն էր Տիար Լեւոն Ֆիլեան՝ Գործադիր Տնօրէնը Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան: Յարգելի հիւրը շատ հաղորդական, խորաթափանց եւ ամբողջական ձեւով ներկայացուց Մեծ Եդեսիի ահաւոր եղելութիւնը. մէկ կողմէ ընդգծելով թուրքի վատտութիւնը, իսկ միւս կողմէ գնահատելով առողջ ու արդար մարդոց եւ միսիոնարներու կատարած օժանդակութիւնը:

Տիար Լեւոն Ֆիլեան իր պատգամը համեմատ էր Հայ գրականութեան առնուած բանաստեղծութիւններու տպաւորիչ խօսքերով:

Աղօթքով, փոխասաց ընթերցումով եւ փառաբանութեան երգերով պաշտամունքին իր մասնակցութիւնը բերաւ ժողովուրդը, առաջնորդութեամբ Վեր. Սողոմոն Քիլաղպեանի, Վեր. Յովհաննէս Սվաճեանի, Պատ. Հրայր Չոլագեանի եւ դաշնակի նուագակցութեամբ Տիկ. Եսթեր Քիլաղպեանի:

Պաշտամունքը վերջ գտաւ Վեր. Մկրտիչ Գարակէօզեանի սրտառու խօսքով եւ Առաքելական Օրհնութեամբ:

Ստորեւ կը ներկայացնենք Տիար Լեւոն Ֆիլեանի պատգամը:

«Ջանասէր»

Աստուծոյ Տուած Մեծ Պատուիրանը

Լեւոն Ֆիլեան

Ապրիլ 24

Այս Գարնան Հետ, այս ծաղկունքի,
Այս թռչնակի, այս առուակի
Հետն այս երգի ու զարթօնքի
Բացուեց լեզուն իմ մանկիկի:

Սիւվա Կապուտիկեան այս գեղեցիկ խօսքերով կը սկսի խրատ տալ իր որդւոյն:

Գարուն եւ զարթօնք - ո՞ր մէկ գարունն է եւ որո՞ւ զարթօնքը:

Հայ ժողովուրդը, 19-րդ դարու վերջաւորութեան սկսած էր նոր կեանքով, նոր գարունով, նոր զարթօնքով:

Հայը սկսած էր գրել վէպեր, քերթուածներ, բանաստեղծութիւններ: Հայը սկսած էր տալ մտաւորականներ, կղերականներ, ազգային եւ կառավարական պաշտօնեաներ: Հայը սկսած էր կազմել նոր գաղափարներ, յեղաշրջում, յեղափոխութիւն, կուսակցական շարժումներ: Հայը սկսած էր իր աշխարհաբարով գաղափարներ փոխանցել զանգուածին, Հայ ժողովուրդին:

Հայը սկսած էր թարգմանել, տպել, եւ օրաթերթերու մէջ անդրադառնալ իր կեանքի գոյատեւութեան՝ Raison

D'etre-ի մասին: Հայը սկսած էր աշխարհաբարով կարդալ Աստուածաշունչը եւ մօտէն ծանօթանալ Աստուծոյ պատուիրաններուն: Հայը որպէս Աստուծոյ ստեղծած արարածը՝ սկսած էր հարց տալ մարդկային իրաւունքներուն եւ ազատութեան մասին: Պաշտելու, խօսելու, քուէարկելու ազատութիւն կ'ուզէր:

Հայրը իր պատմութեան մէջ հասած էր իր գաղաթնակէտին, զարթօնքին եւ գարնան: Կարծես թէ Հայը կը տօնէր Ծաղկազարդ, կ'երգէր Ովսաննա: Բայց չուտով այդ նոր սկսած Մարտ ամսուայ գարունը վերածուեցաւ խենթ մարտի: Մարտի մէջ Հայերը սկսան տալ մարտիրոսներ եւ Սիւվա Կապուտիկեանի կոչին ընդառաջելով Հայը պատրաստեց Հայ մարտիկներ, որոնք պահեցին իրենց ազգութիւնը եւ հաւատքը:

Ու ոսոխի զարկիցը սեւ,

Դու պաշտպանիր կրծքով նրան,

Ինչպէս մօրդ կը պաշտպանես,

Թէ սուր քաչեն մօրդ վրայ:

Ինչպէս ծաղկազարդին յաջորդեց խաչելութեան չարչարանքը եւ մահը՝ յեղափոխական Յիսուսին, այնպէս ալ Հայուն զարթօնքին յաջորդեց մարդասպանութիւնը,

ջարդը, աքսորը, որպէսզի թշնամին, մահը կնքէ Հայ Ազգի, ամէն մէկ Հայու:

Եւ ինչպէս Ուրբաթ եւ Շաբաթ օրերուն լուսթիւն, վախ ու սարսափ տիրեց Յիսուսի խաչելութենէն ետք, աշխարհ լուռ մնաց Հայոց ցեղասպանութեան դիմաց: Բայց ինչպէս որ Մարտին կը յաջորդէ Ապրիլը, մահուան յաջորդեց յաւիտենական կեանքը:

Յիսուս իր յարութեամբ յաղթեց մեղքին եւ մահուան: Հայ ազգը նոյնպէս իր Աստուածային օրհնութիւններով նախաճայրերու հաւատքին վրայ հիմնուած, սկսաւ նոր կեանք՝ նորէն Ապրիլ, նոր գարունով, նոր զարթոնքով: Այսօր հաւաքուած ենք յիշելու մեր ունեցած յաջողութիւնները, մեր նախաճայրերու ցուցաբերած քաջութիւնը եւ հաւատքը, մեր Ազգին հանդէպ եղած անարդարութիւնը, ցեղասպանութիւնը, նաեւ անդրադառնալու, որ կային մարդիկ եւ ազգեր, որոնք ականատես եղան եւ ականջալուր եղան եւ օգնութեան հասան:

Մարդուն եւ Ազգին ճակատագիրը միշտ ենթակայ է վտանգի: Պատմութեան մէջ տեսած ենք բազմազօր ազգեր, որոնք այսօր գոյութիւն չունին, ազգեր որոնք կը տիրէին անձայրածիր հողերու, լեռնաշղթաներու եւ ծովափներու, այսօր սահմանափակ եւ տկար ազգեր եւ երկիրներ են եւ կամ գոյութիւն չունին:

Ամէն ազգի մէջ, ամէն սերունդ պարտականութիւն մը ունի գոյատեւման մէջ իր բաժինը բերելու: Մենք պատասխանատու չենք անցեալի սերունդին արարքներուն, բայց պարտական ենք իրենցմէ սորվելու:

Մենք պատասխանատու ենք նաեւ յիշելու մեր հարուստ, Հայ Քրիստոնեայ մշակոյթը, մեր պապերուն շարականներն ու աղօթքները, մեր գիրն ու գրականութիւնը, վիշտն ու ցաւը, երգը եւ սաղմոսները, մեր շինարար, աշխատասէր, ազատ ապրելու հոգին եւ զայն պէտք է յաջորդ սերունդին փոխանցենք:

Սորվելու, յիշելու եւ փոխանցելու պարտականութիւնը տրուած է մեր ուղեղին, որ բաղկացած է միլիարդավոր բջիջներէ, որոնք իրարու հետ կապուած են շատ զգայուն եւ յաջորդական գիծերով, կամուրջներով:

Գիտնականներ կը հաստատեն, թէ այն բջիջները, որոնք կ'աշխատին, ողջ եւ արթուն կը մնան, արագ կը սորվին, լաւ կը փոխանցեն տեղեկութիւնը եւ շատ երկար կ'ապրին:

Գիտնականներ նաեւ կ'ըսեն թէ՝ եթէ մէկ բջիջ տկարանայ, ծուլանայ, մեռնի, տեղեկութիւն փոխանցելու հոսանքը կը դադրի, կը կենայ: Այսինքն եթէ թիւ 1915 բջիջը 1916 թիւ բջիջին տեղեկութիւն չփոխանցէ եւ եթէ 2012 բջիջը 2013-ին չփոխանցէ, ուրեմն յիշողութիւնը կը մեռնի:

Սիրելիներ, ամէն մէկ սերունդ իր ագին, իր հաւատքին, իր մշակոյթին բջիջներն է: Մեր սերունդը ամենահարուստ, ամենաուղի սերունդն է: Մեզի շատ բան տրուած է, եւ մեզմէ շատ բան կը պահանջուի: Մեր սերունդին պարտականութիւնն է փոխանցել մեր

գանձերը յաջորդ սերունդին: Մենք թիւ 2012 բջիջներն ենք եւ կանչուած ենք դոնէ մինչեւ 2013, 2014, 2015 բջիջները 100-ամեակը եւ անդին փոխանցելու մեր գանձերը:

Աստուածաշունչին մէջ Երկրորդ Օրինաց Գիրքին 6. 5-14 համարները կը թելադրեն սորվելու, յիշելու եւ փոխանցելու հետեւեալ եօթը կէտերը:

1. Սիրէ քու Աստուածդ քու բոլոր սրտովդ, մտքովդ, ոյժովդ, հոգիովդ:
2. Պահէ այս խօսքերը սրտիդ մէջ:
3. Փոխանցէ գանոնք կրկին ու կրկին, սորվեցուր գանոնք պգտիկներուդ (յաջորդ սերունդին)՝ նստած ատենդ, քալած ատենդ, ելած ու պառկած ատենդ:
4. Նշաններով սորվեցուր - նշաններ դիր ձեռքիդ վրայ, ճակատիդ վրայ, տանդ մէջ:
5. Յիշէ քու անցեալդ, երբ օտար ազգի լուծի տակ էիր: Յիշէ քու նախաճայրերուդ հաւատքի տիտանները:
6. Յիշէ ներկադ այն երկրին մէջ ուր կ'ապրիս, ըլլայ ազատ անկախ Հայրենիքի մէջ եւ կամ սփիւռքի օտար ափերուն վրայ, ուր կրնաս ազատօրէն պաշտել նախաճայրերուդ Աստուածը, շինել եկեղեցիներ, բանալ դպրոցներ, դասականդ քու հարազատ մայրենի լեզուդ ու հարուստ մշակոյթդ:
7. Զգուշացիր: Զգուշացիր որ քու Տէր Աստուածդ չմոռնաս այս առատութեան մէջ եւ ուրիշ աստուածներ չպաշտես:

Այս է սկզբնական ուղղութիւնը:

Նախ մենք պէտք է համոզուինք մեր մտքին եւ մեր սրտին մէջ, թէ ինչ է մեր կեանքի գոյապատճառը: Ապա փոխանցենք զայն յաջորդ սերունդին:

Մերն է պարտականութիւնը սորվելու, յիշելու, գնահատելու եւ ապա փոխանցելու մեր արժէքները, յաջորդ սերունդին:

Այսօր հաւաքուած ենք յիշելու եւ փոխանցելու այն բաները, որ պատահեցան Հայ Ազգին:

Կը յիշենք պատմութիւնը որ Հայը կ'ապրէր խաղաղ եւ զարթօնքի մշակութային շրջանին մէջ: Կը յիշենք որ 1890-ին սկսաւ իսլամական շարժումը Թուրքիոյ մէջ, 1895-ին սկսան ջարդերը Էրզրումի, Պիլնիսի մէջ: 1908-ին՝ Թալէաթի ծրագիրը, թրքացեալ եւ իսլամացեալու բոլոր Թուրքիոյ բնակիչները: 1915 Ապրիլ 24-ին մէկ գիշերուայ մէջ մահուան դատապարտեցին 235 ազգային առաջնորդներ, ուսուցիչներ, յեղափոխականներ, որոնց շարքին կային Դանիէլ Վարուժան, Գիրգոր Զօհրապ, Սիամանթօ, Ռուբեն Սեւակ, Խաթակ եւ Երուսխան: 1915 Ապրիլ 30-ին դարձեալ, մէկ գիշերուայ մէջ տուինք 305 զոհ: 1915 Մայիսի առաջին շաբաթը, տուինք զոհեր Մուշի մէջ, Ատանայի եւ Խարբերդի մէջ եւ այլ քաղաքներու եւ գիւղերու մէջ:

Հոս էր երբ Genocide-Ցեղասպանութիւն բառը կեանք առաւ, երբ Հայը տուաւ 1.5 միլիոն զոհ:

Եւ սորվեցանք ու կը սորվինք տակաւին.

1. Թէ թշնամիին համար խտրութիւն չկայ: Հայը Հայ է: Առաքելական, Աւետարանական կամ Կաթողիկէ: Հնչակ, Դաշնակ, Ռամկավար կամ չէզոք: Հարուստ կամ աղքատ, ուսեալ կամ անուս:
2. Թէ միայն աղօթքով փրկութիւն չկայ, միայն զէնքով ալ փրկութիւն չկայ
3. Թէ մեր ոյժը կը կայանայ համագործակցութեան մէջ. «Ով հայ ժողովուրդ, քո փրկութիւնը քո հաւաքական ոյժին մէջ է» (Եղիշէ Չարենց):
4. Աստուած եւ մարդ միասին պէտք է աշխատին:
5. Albert Sweitzer, մեծ միսիոնարը այսպէս ըսաւ. – «Մենք կրնանք սորվեցնել երեք ձեւերով – օրինակով, օրինակով, օրինակով: Ոչ թէ խօսքով, այլ գործով, նկարագրով եւ օրինակով: Օտարներն ալ կը յիշեն այս գազանային արարքը: Տանք օրինակներ:

Ֆրանսան, Սուլթան Համիտը կոչեց «Կարմիր Սուլթան»:

Անգլիացի նախարար Կլատթոն կ'ըսէ. – «Թուրքը քաղաքակրթութեան ամօթը եւ նախատինքն է»:

Ուրիշ անգլիացի մը կ'ըսէ. – «Թուրքը Եւրոպայի ախտն է»:

Վոլթէր բանաստեղծը աւերակներու քովէն անցած պահուն կ'ըսէ. – «Անպայման Թուրքը այստեղէն անցաւ»:

Բայց մենք կը յիշենք նաեւ բարին եւ լաւը: Կը յիշենք ու երախտապարտ ենք բոլոր անոնց, որոնք Եղեռնի այդ դաժան օրերուն, օգնութեան ձեռք երկարեցին Հայ ժողովուրդին:

1. Ամերկայի օժանդակութիւնը եւ օգնութիւնը միսիոնարներու միջոցով եւ քաղաքագէտներու վկայութեան մէջ:
2. Ֆրանսայի, Զուիցերիայի, Գերմանիայի եւ Շուէտի օգնութիւնները: Այո, բարի սամարացիի նման շատեր օտարին, անծանօթին, թափառական, վիրաւոր եւ անտուն Հայ Ազգին օգնութեան հասան: Ղրկեցին հաց ու հագուստ, դեղ ու դարման, բացին դպրոցներ եւ որբանոցներ:
3. Եւ ինչպէս կրնանք չյիշել Արաբական երկիրներու սրտաբաց ընդունելութիւնը: Անոնք եղան «դաշտի ճամբու մը վրայ, կամ ստորոտը լեռան, թափառական Հայ Ազգին սպասող հիւղը»:
4. Կը յիշենք որ մերկ էինք՝ մեզի հագուստ տուին, ծառաւ էինք՝ մեզի ջուր տուին, երբ անօթի՝ կերակուր:

Այս բոլորը Աստուածային արարքներ էին եւ օտարին չնորհիւ մենք վերապրեցանք եւ գոյատեւեցինք:

Ինչպէս փոխանցենք, ինչպէս սորվեցնենք...

Փոխանցենք Աստուածային սիրով, ազգային հոգիով, հաւատարմութեամբ եւ համբերութեամբ, առանց վախնալու եւ յոգնելու, առանց կասկածելու:

Դանիէլ Վարուժան կը յորդորէ հետեւեալ իր գեղեցիկ խօսքերով. –

Յանէ՛, ցանէ՛, նոյնիսկ հեռու սահմանէն,
Աստղերու պէս, ալիքներու պէս ցանէ:
Ծիտերը ի՛նչ փոյթ, թէ հատիկներդ կ'աւարեն,
Տեղը Աստուած պիտ մարգըրիտ սերմանէ:

Ժողովողի 11. 1-6 համարներուն մէջ կը կարդանք հետեւեալ միտքերը.

Հացդ ձգէ ջրոց երեսը
Մի կարծեր թէ կ'ընկղմի
Թէեւ ուշանայ արդիւնքը
Անպատճառ գտնես պիտի:
Տուր բաժին եօթին ութին ալ
Կարօտին առատ բաշխէ
Զի Աստուած խոստում տուած է
Որ քեզ աւելի օրհնէ:

Ու կը շարունակէ՝

Հովը դիտտողը չկրնար ցանել
Եւ ամպերուն նայողը չկրնար հնձել:
(Ժող. 11. 4):

«Առտուն քու սերմդ ցանէ, եւ իրիկունը քու ձեռքդ պարապ մի թողուր, վասնզի չես գիտեր թէ որը օգտակար պիտի ըլլայ» (Ժող. 11. 6):

Տանք մեր ժամանակը, մեր ձիրքերը, մեր միտքերը: Տանք մեր քսակները մեր դպրոցներուն, մեր եկեղեցիներուն:

Որպէս ուսուցիչ, ծնողք, կղերական եւ կուսակցական, տեղ տանք, առիթ տանք, որ նոր սերունդը մեզի յաջողութեամբ յաջորդէ:

Յիսուս իր յարութենէն ետք տեսաւ իր աշակերտները, տխրեցաւ անոնց թերահաւատութեան վրայ, բայց չյուսահատեցաւ: Յիսուս տեսաւ իր աշակերտները ոչ թէ ինչպէս էին, այլ ինչ հրաշքներ կրնային ընել Սուրբ Հոգիի զօրութեամբ: Յիսուս ըսաւ անոնց. – «Խաղաղութիւն ձեզի»:

Յիսուս ըսաւ. ողջոյն, ողջ, առողջ:

Յիսուս ըսաւ. – «Ուրեմն գացէք բոլոր ազգերը աշակերտեցէք, մկրտեցէք զանոնք, յանուն Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Սորվեցուցէք անոնց, որ այն բոլոր բաները պահեն, որ ես ձեզի պատուիրեցի, ահա ամէն օր ձեզի հետ եմ մինչեւ աշխարհիս վերջը»:

Աստուածային եւ ազգային պատգամները ասոնք են, որ առանց վախնալու, առանց յուսահատելու, մեր լաւագոյնը ընենք, սիրով փոխանցելու մեր հաւատքը եւ մեր հարուստ աստուածակեդրոն մշակոյթը՝ մեզի յաջորդող սերունդին:

Նայինք մեր նոր սերունդին եւ անոնց մէջ տեսնենք աստուածատուր այն պարգեւները, որ անոնց մէջ աճելով եկեղեցական, ազգային, կուսակցական, մտաւորական, գաղափարապաշտ առաջնորդներ ըլլալու հաւատքը կը ներշնչեն:

Սիրելիներ, Հաշուետուութեան պիտի կանչուինք մեր արարքներուն Համար, մեր Ազգին եւ Աստուծոյ առջեւ:

Յայտնութիւն Յովհաննու գիրքին մէջ, Յովհաննէս առաքեալը սիրոյ եօթը եկեղեցիներուն այսպէս կը գրէ: «Ես գիտեմ ձեր գործերը եւ աշխատանքները»: Կը գովէ գիրենք իրենց լաւ գործերուն Համար: Կը յանդիմանէ գիրենք իրենց տկարութեան մէջ: Կոչ կ'ուղղէ որ ապաշխարեն:

Եփեսոսի կ'ըսէ: «Դուն աշխատասէր էիր եւ իմ անուանս Համար չթուլցար, բայց քու առաջին սէրդ ձգեցիր»:

Ձմիւրնիոյ կ'ըսէ: «Մինչեւ մահ Հաւատարիմ եղէք ու ձեզի կենաց պատիւ պիտի տամ»:

Պերգամոնի կ'ըսէ: «Դուն իմ Հաւատքս չուրացար, բայց կուռքեր պաշտեցիր»: Կոչ կ'ընէ, որ ապաշխարեն:

Ֆիլատելիոյ կ'ըսէ: «Դուն քիչ մը կարողութիւն ունիս բայց խօսքս պահեցիր ու անունս չուրացար, ես ալ քեզ պիտի պահեմ փորձութեան ժամանակ»:

Սիրելի բարեկամ, Հայ Քրիստոնեայ, քոյր եւ եղբայր,

Անցեալ տարի 2011 Սեպտեմբերին Համայն Հայութիւնը կը տօնէր Հայաստանի անկախութեան 20-րդ տարեդարձը: Ես պատիւը ունեցայ մասնակցելու Հանդիսութիւններու եւ տողանցքներու, Համաժողովներու, առաջնորդներու հետ եւ նախագահի հետ Հանդիպումներու մեր անկախ Հայրենիքին մէջ:

Սիրտս ցնծաց ուրախութեամբ եւ շրթունքներս բարձրացուցին փառաբանութեան երգեր, դէպի Աստուած: Աստուծոյ փառք տուի Հայ Աւետարանչականին Համար, որ զարթոնքէն ետք, խաչելութենէն ետք, յարութենէն ետք, իր բաժինը բերաւ աստուածային առաջնորդութեամբ օգնելու իր Հայ Ազգին, փոխանցելով մեր նախահայրերու Հաւատքը եւ մշակոյթը նոր սերունդին: Օժանդակութիւն եւ առաջնորդութիւն տուաւ որբանոցներու, դպրոցներու, Համալսարաններու, Հիւանդանոցներու եւ այլ մարդասիրական կազմակերպութիւններու, օգնելով աշխարհի չորս ծագերուն գտնուող Հայ Ազգի մատղաջ սերունդին:

Այսօր կոչ կ'ուղղեմ ձեզի, որ դուք ալ ձեր լաւագոյնը տաք ձեր Ազգին, մասնաւորաբար ձեզի յաջորդող սերունդին: Տէրը օրհնէ մեզմէ իւրաքանչիւրը: □

JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is pleased to sponsor the James G. Jameson Essay Contest once again this year. The James G. Jameson Essay Contest was established to encourage high school and college students of Armenian descent to express how their Armenian heritage has been meaningful in their lives. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, culture, geography, history or the economy.

Awards will be made in two categories: high school students and college/university students. The deadline for entries is September 30, 2012.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students from North America are eligible. Only unpublished entries will be accepted. The winner in each category will be awarded \$500.00, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. and Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and only one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to: James G. Jameson Essay Contest, c/o of The Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsezian

Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsezian, Pastor Emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Church of São Paulo, Brazil passed away on May 28, 2012 in Commugny, Switzerland. He was 84.



His parents, Manouk and Nelly Sapsezian, originally from Marash in Turkish occupied Armenian Cilicia, were blessed with three children. The second one, Aharon, was born July 1, 1926 in an Armenian refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria. He was just two months old when the family emigrated to Brazil and settled in São Paulo. Aharon lost his father at the age of four and experienced the hardships, as well as the dignity of poverty. Nelly worked for years in a clothing factory to earn a modest living for the family and ensure the school education of the children.

At the end of secondary school, Aharon and his brother Zaven worked in a small shoe factory owned by their uncles. Meanwhile, the family attended the Armenian Evangelical Church in São Paulo, where the pastor was Rev. Peniamin Gaidzakian. The Sapsezian brothers attended the Sunday School regularly. It was then that Aharon felt a strong sense of calling to serve in the Christian ministry. In preparation for this ministry he went through a five year training at the Faculty of Theology of the Methodist University in São Paulo, and three years of Classical Letters at the São Paulo State University. He earned various degrees abroad: a Master's at Union Theological Seminary (New York), Specialization in Ecumenical Theology at the Ecumenical Institute of the WCC (Geneva, Switzerland), Specialization in Contemporary Theology at Oxford University (England), and a Doctorate in Theology at the University of Neuchatel (Switzerland).

His ordination for the pastoral ministry of his church in São Paulo took place on July 13, 1955 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical Union (Eastern States). The ordination service was presided by Rev. Antranik Bedikian.

His official pastoral ministry at the Armenian Evangelical Church of São Paulo, Brazil, lasted 15 years, from 1955 to 1970. Besides his active involvement in the Armenian Community of São Paulo, he participated in various activities outside the Armenian Community. He taught Contemporary Theology at the Methodist University where he was a student earlier and also played an active role in the launching

of the Brazilian Association of Theological Schools.

In 1970 Rev. Sapsezian accepted a call to be the Director of the Theological Education Fund and Programme of the World Council of Churches, first in London and then in Geneva, Switzerland. In this function he traveled extensively worldwide visiting and counselling theological schools mainly in Latin America and in the Middle East.

He is the author of numerous articles on Theology and Theological Education, and of four books on armenological subjects ("my main hobby", he once said) including the best seller "Armenian Christianity – The Faith of a Nation", published by the Armenian Missionary Association of America. His passion for the Armenian cause was much nurtured by four working visits he paid to the Motherland between 1975 and 2005.

Married to Zabel Kouyoumdjian in 1959, the couple was blessed with two children, Cristina, herself mother of three children now living in Johannesburg (South Africa), and Claudia living near Douvaine (France).

Since his retirement, Rev. Sapsezian and his wife lived in the peaceful and picturesque village of Commugny, not far from Geneva, contemplating the beauty of Lake Lemman and the majestic summits of the Alps. □

Yeprouhie Der Boghossian Chopourian

Yeprouhie Der Boghossian Chopourian, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) from 1969-1988, and mother of AMAA Board member Dr. Eileen Chopourian Stephey, passed away on May 13, 2012 at her home in Havertown, PA. She was 98.



Yeprouhie (whom many endearingly called "Yep") was a member of the fast disappearing generation that witnessed the two World Wars and a number of cold wars, and left us a great legacy of Armenian Evangelical values. Despite all hardships, she and her generation developed resilience to look beyond tragedy and reach out to those in need.

Born on February 28, 1914 to Misak and Aznive Der Boghossian in Dort-Yol, Turkey, Yeprouhie was the sixth of seven sisters whose family survived the Armenian massacres due to the friendships developed by Misak and his entry into the Turkish army where he

served as a builder of homes and bridges, not a fighter. When Misak found out that families in Derzoon were being led to be massacred, as a colonel in the Turkish army, he entreated the chief commander in Derzoon to save his family. He took his family to Aleppo, Syria then to Adana, returning to Dort-Yol, then to Alexandretta and finally settling in Beirut, Lebanon in 1927.

Yeprouhie and Giragos Chopourian met in college at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. They married in June of 1945 and settled in Larnaca, Cyprus, Giragos's home. They had three children — Eileen, Vera and Vicki — and in 1957 moved to the United States of America where Yeprouhie served many congregations hand in hand with her beloved husband Giragos.

In her life odyssey – in Dort-Yol and Alexandretta, Turkey; Beirut, Lebanon; Larnaca, Cyprus; Haverhill and Lawrence, MA; Havertown, PA; Paramus, NJ; and back to Havertown, PA – Yeprouhie was strengthened rather than weakened by her life's manifold challenges. She acquired strength of character and unshakable optimism that prevailed throughout her long life and served as a model for her three daughters and their families.

Yeprouhie and her late husband, Reverend Dr. Giragos Chopourian, became a most compatible couple and rendered most valuable and lasting services to the Armenian people in general and to the Armenian Evangelical community in particular.

While Giragos served the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Yeprouhie worked at Strawbridge and Clothier in Philadelphia, continuing to serve as Pastor's wife and entertaining the congregation in their home. When Giragos became Executive Director of the AMAA, she volunteered her services to the AMAA when it was located in New York City, prior to the move of the offices to Paramus, New Jersey.

She survived her soul mate and husband of 61 years whose passing took a part of her spirit. She was ready to go home to be with the Lord, Jesus Christ and her beloved Giragos.

A former teacher and a Christian educator, Yeprouhie was not only respected by her many former students, but also was well known and loved by many for her warm and personable demeanor, kindness and hospitality.

We will never stop missing the warmth of love of "Yep and Chop." With indebtedness and conviction we celebrate the life they so embraced here on earth and their arrival into the heavenly place God prepared for them.

Yeprouhie is survived by her daughters Eileen Stephey (Harry), Vera Bailey (Tom,

deceased), Vicki Gehrt (Tom); grandchildren Jennifer Cave (Jeff), Arsha Cipollone (Chris), Adam Bailey, Timothy Stephey (Magdalena), Matthew Gehrt (Elizabeth), Sarah Bailey, Katie Martin (Lee); great grandchildren, Nicholas Cave, Patricia Cipollone, Jacob Gehrt, Alison Cipollone, Dylan Cave, Benjamin Gehrt, William Gehrt, Anna Cave, Christopher Cipollone and Helena Stephey.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA. Memorial donations may be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America in care of the Giragos & Yeprouhie Chopourian Endowment Fund. □

George Aynilian

George Aynilian passed away on May 20, 2012 in Aleppo, Syria. Born in Aintab in 1921 to Armenag and Victoria Aynilian, George moved with his family to Aleppo and started a new life like thousands of Armenians who had fled the Ottoman atrocities in the cities of Cilicia.



During his childhood years, George attended the "Oosum-na-sirats" elementary school that was run by the famous educator Levon Levonian. In 1942, he graduated from Aleppo Junior College and later started his own business of apparel and textile retail merchandizing. He managed his business until the last months of his life.

Besides raising a Christ-centered family with Christian values, and leading a successful business, George actively supported almost every local Armenian Evangelical congregation, philanthropic and cultural association. He served on the board of the Aleppo Nahadagatz (Martyrs') Church and was a Deacon for almost five decades. He was also a member of the executive board of UAECNE, the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria. He served on the boards of Action Chretienne on Orient (ACO), the Jinishian Memorial Fund and the Howard Karageuzian Foundation.

George's greatest efforts were reserved for KCHAG (the Armenian Evangelical Conference Center for Youth in Kessab). He dedicated his entire life to inaugurate and establish the ministry of KCHAG in the wider Armenian Evangelical community of Syria.

George had a unique love for culture in general and the Armenian one in particular. Throughout his life he supported the AGBU and Tekeyan Cultural Association and was a

dedicated supporter of all cultural activities in his hometown.

After 70 years of distinguished service to the church and the Armenian Community, George rested in the Lord who welcomed him to heaven by saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" (Matt. 25:23).

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth (Beylerian); two children Ani Abajian (Henry) and Armen (Salpi), and four grandchildren.

His funeral service was held on May 21, at the Armenian Evangelical Nahadagatz (Martyrs') Church, in Aleppo, Syria. □

Charles C. Avakian

John Charles Avakian, Jr. passed away on April 26, 2012 in Fresno, CA.

Born in Fresno, John was the son of the late John and Agavne Avakian, natives of Tiflis (Russia). After graduating from Roosevelt High School, he served in the Air Force Reserve as a Radio Mechanic II with the 1901st Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron. Following his discharge in 1953, John briefly attended Fresno State College and then entered his life's work as owner of JCA Floor Covering. He was a devoted member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church and Bible Study Fellowship.



He is survived by many cousins and dear friends.

A graveside service, officiated by Rev. Stephen Muncherian, was held on May 5 at the Masis Ararat Cemetery in Fresno. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- * **Jacqueline Ayyazian**
Cresskill, NJ
- * **Kendall Bunny**
- * **Makrouhi Der Krikorian**
- * **Thomas Diana**
- * **Vahey Gulezian**
Andover, MA
- * **Araxi Kalajian**
Watertown, MA
- * **Beatrice Kassapian**
Manhasset, NY
- * **Dorothy Khachigian**
Bakersfield, CA
- * **Mary Koundakjian**
Los Angeles, CA

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

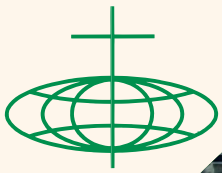
Revelation 14:13

AMAA NEWS is going GREEN

The AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. Provide your e-mail address and the AMAA will send you a copy of the AMAA NEWS via e-mail. This link will give you the news as soon as it is available without waiting for publication.

We encourage you to let us know if you are interested in receiving the AMAA NEWS online. Please just send your e-mail address to us at amaanews@amaa.org or call us at 201.265.2607.

Thank you for helping the AMAA go GREEN!



IN THE “GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME” — IT’S TIME FOR CAMP!



Armenian Missionary Association of America

Camp Sheen Shoghig and Camp Bedrosian
in Armenia and Karabagh

When the first warm days come, everyone starts gazing longingly out of the windows at God’s beauty unfolding before our eyes. Each year, it also means thousands of children in Armenia and Karabagh know the time for summer camp is drawing near. Our camping missions not only enrich the children’s lives spiritually and physically, but also provide relief from the hot summer sun. Campers enjoy leisure time in a wholesome environment created especially for them while they learn about the love of God. Camp ministries continue to be one of the most effective methods by which we bring our children to God.

These children need your help.

Please help us support more campers this year. Our children will never forget your love and the positive impact your gift makes on their young lives.

Yes, I would like to help children in Armenia and Karabagh attend summer camps.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for:

_____ Children @ \$70 each for overnight camps (for one week)

_____ Children @ \$40 each for day camps (for one week)

Name _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Please make your tax deductible donation to the AMAA, earmarked for Armenia Summer Camps, and mail to 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please call the AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit the AMAA website at www.amaa.org.



Armenian Missionary Association of America

31 West Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652

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OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 93RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the AMAA Headquarters, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for fiscal year 2011-2012;
- II. Review the financial reports for fiscal year 2011-2012;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 93RD ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 12 at the AMAA Headquarters

9:30 am Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting
12:00 pm..... Lunch
2:00 pm Seminar/Workshop — Strategic Planning
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 13 at the AMAA Headquarters

9:30 am 93rd Annual Meeting
12:00 pm.... Lunch
1:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 13 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ

6:00 pm Reception
6:30 pm Dinner
7:45 pm Concert featuring a 16 piece chamber orchestra with Hampic Djabourian on the duduk. The musical presentation will include sharagans, sacred music and Armenian music from Gomidas, Khatchaturian, Spendiarian and others. The evening will conclude with a dessert reception.

Sunday, October 14 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ

11:00 am... 93rd Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers